

## Kuwait national day

## Kuwait, Japan near 50 years of cooperation

Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi  
AMBASSADOR OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
TO JAPAN

As the State of Kuwait celebrates the 48th anniversary of its independence, I avail myself in all humbleness and gratitude of this yearly auspicious occasion to express the magnanimous compliments of H.H. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, H.H. Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the crown prince, H.H. Sheikh Naser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the prime minister, the Kuwaiti government and people, and



the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Japan to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihiko and Empress Michiko, the revered Imperial family, Prime Minister Taro Aso, the esteemed Japanese government and the whole friendly nation of Japan.

Kuwait also celebrates this year the third anniversary of the commencement of a new era in its history of progress, prosperity and constructive cooperation under the sagacious leadership of Sheikh Sabah, who ascended to the helm of the country's leadership Jan. 29, 2006.

As 48 years have passed since Kuwait regained its independence and 18 years since it achieved its liberation after the Iraqi invasion, Kuwait brings to the fore of its nation-



Amir of the State of Kuwait  
Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad  
Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

al memory the role Japan, its government and people played in contributing to this liberation partially through supporting international community decisions. The Kuwaiti people will never forget this role.

Kuwait also values highly the considerable efforts Japan continues to make in the (G-8) summit for economic growth and development in the world. It similarly appreciates Japan's role and position as a nonpermanent U.N. Security Council member, and hopes this friendly country becomes a permanent Security Council member in the near future in order to contribute more effectively to the security, stability and peace in the world, especially in the Middle East.

The State of Kuwait and Japan have enjoyed for about half a century strong, deep-rooted and mutually profitable relations in all fields of cooperation. Here, I proudly recall the historic July 26 to 29 visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Naser to Japan, which came to complement the visit of the amir in 2004, when he was prime minister, after the one then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made to Kuwait in 2007. Such visits have had clear and positive effects on the develop-



Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait  
Sheikh Nawaf  
Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

ment of economic, political and diplomatic relations between our countries.

To cite but a few examples: After a series of negotiations, started in November 2006, Kuwait and Japan reached very recently a basic agreement that aims to eliminate double taxation and to facilitate investments between the two countries. Kuwait has also submitted a proposal to the government of Japan to work out an agreement for "The Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investments," with a view to creating favorable conditions for more economic cooperation, stimulating business initiatives and increasing prosperity in both countries. Noteworthy here is that the Kuwait Investment Authority is considering boosting its investments in Japan.

In addition, the Japan-Kuwait joint refinery and petrochemicals venture in Vietnam, which is proceeding as planned, will be the largest and most important refining project in Vietnam, which when finalized will start functioning toward the end of 2013.

Amid these reassuring results we yearn all the more adamantly for further constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation in political, economic, cultural, scientific, technological, environmental and youth fields. To this end, we will leave no stone unturned in our strenuous search for scientific, and innovative ways and means of achieving

more success in the near and long-term future, mainly through increasing visits of top officials and bilateral relations, in order to conclude and implement more agreements in all the aforementioned fields.

Environmentally, the Japan-developed children-oriented environmental education program called "Kids' ISO 14000" was launched in Kuwait to improve Kuwaiti children's awareness of the dire need to protect the environment and put forward creative economy-triggering ecological ideas. The initiative was successful and was appreciated by Kuwaiti authorities.

The program organizers have therefore become more encouraged to conceive of this success as a model to emulate in the rest of the Arab region.

From another perspective, Kuwait and Japan will also strengthen their economic ties through the Japan-Arab Economic Forum, which has been established in tandem with the successful Arab Economic Summit in Kuwait City on Jan. 19 to 20, 2009. This forum, whose first meeting will be held in Tokyo toward the end of this year, seeks to enrich and reinforce further the economic cooperation between Japan and all Arab countries, including Kuwait. Hence its establishment is another support for cooperation between Japan and the Arab world.

Japan is of elemental importance to the Arab world, whose strategic geopolitical position and natural riches are indispensable in the country's pursuit of growth and progress. Some 90 percent of Japan's natural energy comes from the Arab world, especially GCC countries. Japan is a central partner, and so important that both parties will indomitably continue their partnership and cooperation to increase their invulnerability to the markets' ups and downs, and guarantee mutual profitability.

As to the January Kuwait Arab Economic Summit, its decisions strongly support the



National symbol: Completed in 1993, the 372-meter Liberation Tower is the tallest structure in Kuwait. EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF KUWAIT

progress of the Arab economy in particular, and that of the world economy on a global scale with a view to minimizing poverty and maximizing employment opportunities so that social security, stability and the welfare of individuals are of paramount importance in the Arab world as well as in other countries, especially the less-developed ones.

One of the summit's most important concrete results was the initiative put forward by Sheikh Sabah to establish a \$2 billion fund to support economic and financial investment projects in Arab countries, a fund to which Kuwait contributed \$500 million. The Arab Economic Summit therefore concluded its work in the spirit of moving forward, and finding means and ways to ensure the development of Arab and international economies.

All this economic bilateral cooperation will surely make

the 2011 celebration of the first 50 years of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and Japan more meaningful and a reliable background for a more success-pregnant future.

On this blissful occasion, I confidently believe that a brighter future lies ahead for both of our countries, which share such pivotal universal values as peace, democracy, human rights and human welfare-oriented governance. This confidence emanates from our strong will and determination not to spare any effort possible so that these grand values continue to frame and guide our two countries' constant search for continuous, successful cooperation.

True, the global financial crisis poses quite a big challenge; still, it is a challenge that can be turned into an opportunity to maintain our mutual cooperation interests now, and in the future through

taking all constructive efforts required to survive the crisis and its aftermath. In this context, Kuwaiti leadership is committed as ever to continue to create new channels for promising cooperation between our two countries in all fields. It is no less determined to contribute to the improvement of the political and economic situation regionally, and internationally to alleviate the sweeping negative effects prompted by the crisis in unflinching cooperation with the rest of the international community through feasible, well-maintained and sustainable work plans.

We are optimistic that Kuwait and Japan will move forward together with all determination toward a tomorrow whose biggest title is: active and effective sustainable progress by means of economic and political cooperation, and cultural openness between our nations.

## Working together for world stability

Keiichi Konaga  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY

On this auspicious occasion of the 48th National Day of the State of Kuwait, I am pleased to offer on behalf of the members of the Japan-Kuwait Society our sincerest greetings and congratulations to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness Prime Minister Sheikh Naser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, as well as to the friendly people of Kuwait.

I am happy to see that the responsive ties between Japan and Kuwait have grown over extensive areas year after year since our two countries officially established diplomatic relations in December 1961. Official and private visits have multiplied, proving the steadfast joint efforts of collaborative activities in science, technology and culture, to say nothing of the close diplomatic and economic interactions.

In 2008, Akira Amari, Japan's then minister of economy, trade and industry, and Fukushima Nukaga, then minister of finance, visited Kuwait in June and July, respectively. Japan received Prime Minister Sheikh Naser in July

the same year. While in Tokyo, the prime minister was received in audience by Emperor Akihito, and had talks with then Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and then Minister of Defense Shigeru Ishiba. I had the opportunity to have a brief meeting with Sheikh Naser as chairman of our society and he was warm in his praise for the society's activities.

At the end of 2008, contingents of the Air Self-Defense Force pulled out of Kuwait after completing a nearly five-year noncombat airlift mission, helping Iraqi postwar reconstruction efforts by transporting U.N. personnel and supplies to Iraq. For Japan to fulfill its humanitarian mission in Iraq, Kuwait allowed Japanese troops and C-130 transport planes to use the Ali Al-Salem Air Base in western Kuwait while providing them with strategic and technical cooperation. At an end-of-mission ceremony Dec. 7 at the base, Ryota Takeda, parliamentary secretary for defense, expressed gratitude to Kuwait for its cooperation with the ASDF airlift operations.

In the sphere of business, joint meetings of the Japan-Kuwait Businessmen's Committee have been continuously held every year in Japan and Kuwait alternately as a mutual endeavor for the promotion of investment and business activities between the two countries. The last session was held in Tokyo on Dec. 2 and vigorous discussions were held.

It is our great pleasure that Japan continues to be a good partner who can contribute to Kuwait by making full use of its advanced scientific know-how and environmental protection technology. A case in point is the Kuwait Bay Rehabilitation Project, a joint model project in which the Japan External Trade Organization took a cooperative role with Kuwait's Environment Public Authority.

It makes me happy to mention that Kuwait has made great strides in energy conservation by joining the "Kids' ISO 14000" program, an education scheme devised by the Tokyo-based International Art & Technology Cooperation Organization (ArTech) with the United Nations University, UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Program to help children grow into environmentally mature citizens with a global perspective. About 1,000 Kuwaiti schoolchildren have so far participated in its introductory practice toward environmental awareness development. According to Kuwait's Ministry of Education, those young Kuwaitis, joined by their families, have played a central role in energy-saving practices, marking a successful reduction of their household electricity and water consumption by 25 percent and 15 percent, respectively. The ministry now plans to establish a center for environmental education and research, the first such institution in the GCC.

On the sidelines of the excellent official relations, our Japan-Kuwait Society has laid the groundwork for academic and cultural exchanges between our two peoples for the past 44 years. With a focus on cultural and Islamic subjects, we have published a number of books in Japanese to provide readers with more knowledge of Islamic culture and civilization.

In closing, I would like to offer my heartfelt appreciation to H.E. Abdul-Rahman Humood Al-Otaibi, ambassador of Kuwait to Japan, for his active outreach efforts to enhance mutual understanding and cooperation between our two nations. I happily notice that his initiative of promoting Kuwait over a broader reach of the Japanese population has proved successful. I offer my profound wishes that our excellent relations be maintained, and pray for the prosperity and progress of Kuwait, and its peace-loving people.

**Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations  
to the State of Kuwait  
on the Occasion of  
the 18th Anniversary of Liberation  
and the 48th Anniversary of National Day**



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Heartiest Greetings and Congratulations  
to  
**H.H. The Amir,  
H.H. The Crown Prince, H.H. The Prime Minister  
and The People of The State of Kuwait**

On the Occasion of  
the 48th Anniversary of the National Day of Kuwait  
and the 18th Anniversary of Liberation Day



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AND CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT  
ON ITS 48th NATIONAL DAY  
AND 18th ANNIVERSARY  
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**JAPAN-KUWAIT SOCIETY**

Chairman: Keiichi Konaga